



### HELP!Line Answers Hundreds of Suicide Related Calls from South Dakotans

During the first six months of 2009, the HELP!Line Center has answered more than 500 suicide related calls from South Dakotans. This is a 29 percent increase over the previous six months and a 52 percent increase over the same time period in 2008.

“We believe two things are happening,” said HELP!Line Center Executive Director Carol Muller. “First, during the last couple of years we have worked hard to promote the Suicide Prevention HELP!Line, so more people are aware the service is available. And second, many South Dakotans are facing tough times and they are reaching out for help.”

**The HELP!Line Center answers the Suicide Prevention HELP!Line 1-800-273-TALK**

**for South Dakotans 24 hours a day. Please call if you or someone you know may be struggling with thoughts of suicide.**

Suicide Prevention Specialists are available 24 hours a day to offer callers listening and support. During the first six months of 2009, thoughts of suicide were present with 64 percent of callers with 20 percent of those calls coming from concerned third parties (friends, co-workers, family members, etc.) In addition, 25 percent of callers were looking for information regarding suicide prevention, and 11 percent of callers had lost a loved one to suicide.

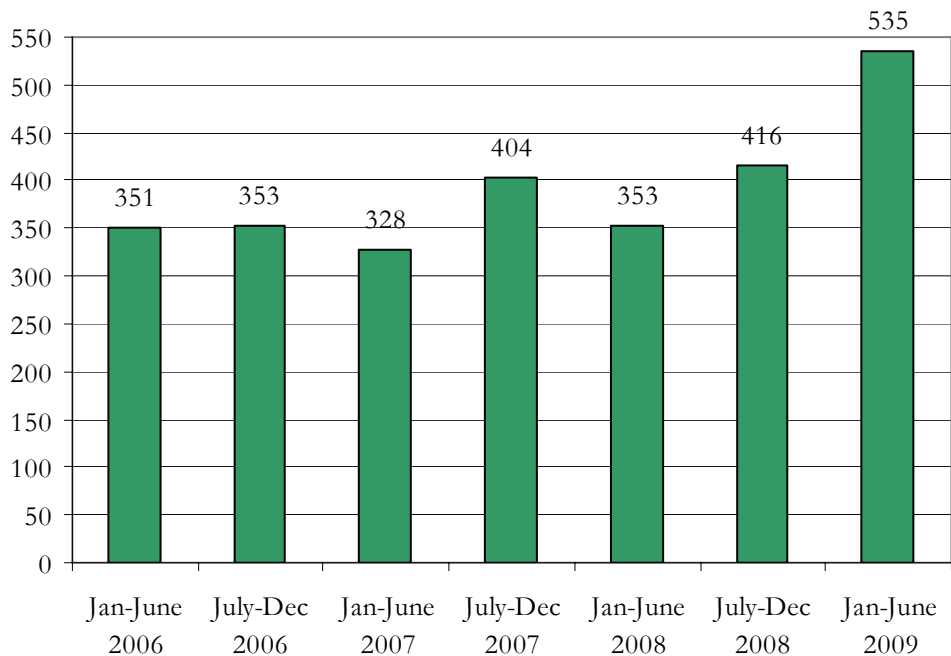
Suicide Prevention Specialist Lori Montis says many of the callers mention how helpful it was just to talk to someone at the time of their crisis. “Having someone listen to them and their concerns really made a difference for them and helped them get through their difficult time.”

In addition to answering phone calls from those considering suicide or their loved ones, the HELP!Line Center has an extensive

outreach program to help prevent suicide and support those who have lost a loved one to suicide. To learn more, call the Suicide Prevention HELP!Line at 1-800-273-TALK.

For a full report on data from 2008, please visit [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org) and search for “Community Trends”. If you would like more information or if you are in need of community resources, please contact the HELP!Line Center.

**Number of Suicide Related Calls from South Dakotans**



HELP!Line Center  
1000 N. West Ave, Suite 310  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
[www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org)

Admin: (605) 334-6646  
HELP!Line: 211 or (605) 339-4357  
Suicide Prevention: 1-800-273-TALK

